

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /077 W

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P 141206Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 4280

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2772

FOR SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: OCTOBER 14 COVERAGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN ZAMBIAN PRESS

REF: LONDON 16343, LUSAKA 2750

1. BASED ON OCTOBER 13 INTERVIEW WITH SITHOLE ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR DAR ES SALAAM FOLLOWING A MORNING MEETING WITH KAUNDA, TIMES ARTICLE REPORTS SITHOLE AS SAYING THAT BRITISH FAILED TO INVITE HIM TO GENEVA BECAUSE "THEY FEAR I WILL BE A HINDERANCE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUPPET GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE." SITHOLE ALSO SAID HE WAS UNPREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA IN ANY CAPACITY OTHER THAN AS PRESIDENT OF ZANU. HE ACCUSED NKOMO OF BEING "UNFAIR" SINCE AS PRESIDENT OF ZAPU, "HE WENT INTO A DEAL WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (MUGABE) OF ANOTHER PARTY. I THINK THIS IS POLITICAL CHICANERY OF THE WORST KIND." SITHOLE SAID HE WOULD MEET NYERERE FOR TALKS SIMILAR TO THOSE HE HAD WITH KAUNDA.

2. OCTOBER 14 DAILY MAIL BLENDED REUTER S WIRE SERVICE REPORTS
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FROM SALISBURY AND DAR ES SALAAM INTO AN ARTICLE, HEADLINED

"NKOMO PICKS STRONG TEAM FOR GENEVA TALKS". NOTED WAS FACT NKOMO FACTION MEETING HAD CONSIDERED WHETHER SITHOLE SHOULD BE INVITED TO JOIN THE DELEGATION, BUT DECISION WAS NOT REVEALED. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION SPOKESMAN IN LUSAKA SAID THAT DENNIS GRENNAN, FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISER ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, SERVING AS U.K. LIAISON WITH NATIONALISTS LEADERS AND FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS, WOULD LEAVE LUSAKA OCTOBER 14 FOR TALKS WITH MUGABE IN MAPUTO AND WOULD RETURN TO LUSAKA OVER THE WEEKEND TO TALK WITH MUZOREWA AND NKOMO. TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS THAT, WHILE IN LUSAKA, GRENNAN MET WITH HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MILNER. NO DETAILS OF MEETING WERE GIVEN. ON INSIDE PAGE, DEVOTED TO FOREIGN NEWS, MAIL CARRIED REUTER S ACCOUNT OF BOTSWANA S FOREIGN MINISTER S ADDRESS TO U.N. OCTOBER 12 AND LONDON REPORT OF POSTPONEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS OF TLKS ON (RHODESIAN) INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND. ON SAME PAGE WAS REUTER S ACCOUNT OF CROSLAND S GRILLING IN PARLIAMENT BY CONSERVATIVES OCTOBER 12 (LONDON REFTTEL).

3. TIMES OF ZAMBIA STORY OF NKOMO S SELECTION OF DELEGATION WAS ABRIDGED REUTER S REPORT. ARTICLE ALSO RFERS TO RHODESIAN HEARLD STORY WHICH DESCRIBED AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS A "CON TRICK" BY WHICH KISSINGER SOUGHT TO DRIVE SMITH INTO CORNER FROM WHICH HE COULD EXTRICATE HIMSELF ONLY BY MAKING MORE CONCESSIONS TO BLACK NATIONALISM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA02772
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760386-0663
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761053/aaaabtza.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 16343, 76 LUSAKA 2750
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCTOBER 14 COVERAGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN ZAMBIAN PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, ZA, ZANU, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006